

July 31, 2001

House Bans Human Cloning

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a ban on human cloning, including the creation of cloned embryos to be destroyed for research. The Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001 provides criminal penalties for the creation of human clones. Representative Todd Akin, who cosponsored the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001, made the following statement:

“It was necessary for a line to be drawn, and for it to be drawn here. The creation of a human clone raises serious ethical, medical and moral issues.

“I believe that Rep. Weldon’s complete ban on human cloning is both appropriate and urgent. The partial ban proposed by Rep. Greenwood would have been inadequate. It would have endorsed the practice of farming human embryos for research and would have required the killing of those embryos.

“Just because something is scientifically interesting or advanced, it is not necessarily enlightened. I believe that human life in every stage must be respected, and I am strenuously opposed to the creation of human life for the sole purpose of research and destruction.”